Revival of TCIL

*177. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revival scheme for Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL) was sanctioned by BIFR in February, 1996;

(b) whether the same was referred back to BIFR because of the appeal of Central Government before AAIFR;

(c) whether during BIFR hearing on the scheme on the 26th May, 1997, Central Government gave partial consent to the aforesaid scheme;

(d) whether BIFR directed Government to submit the revised scheme by 21st July, 1997;

(e) whether any such scheme has been submitted by the Government; and

(f) if not, the action taken by Government to revive the company?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) BIFR in its hearing held on 14.5.1997 observed that Government of India (GOI) had consented to the reliefs and concessions relating to Kankinara Unit. In the case of Tangra Unit, GOI had given partial consent by not agreeing to the Braided Hose Project.

(d) to (f) The Bench directed GOI to identify a Joint Venture (JV) Partner for TCIL as a whole and send a proposal based on such JV to the Operating Agency by 25.6.97 for their consideration. Pursuant to BIFR's direction, Deptt. of Heavy Industry engaged SBI CAP as Merchant Bankers for locating a suitable JV partner. The offers received for JV formation have been sent by the Department to BIFR. The same are under consideration of BIFR.

Growth rate of exports

*178. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports during 1997-98 have been comparatively low as compared to last year and the anticipated export growth has not been achieved;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this sluggishness' and how Government proposes to tackle this situation now; and

(c) what are the export targets for 1998-99 and what measures are being adopted to ensure that the target so set, are achieved?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) As per the provisional data received from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), the growth rate of exports during 1997-98 was 2.64% in dollar terms and is lower than the growth rate of the previous year. It is also lower than the target for the year 1997-98.

Export performance is influenced inter-alia by international market conditions, export competitiveness of domestic industry, supporting infrastructure facilities, policy framework etc. During 1997-98 exports were affected due to a general slowdown in world trade and especially the recession in many countries in South East Asia, Japan and Germany, supply constriants in some sectors such as agricultural commodities, slow erosion of competitiveness and slow industrial growth.

The target fixed for the year 1998-99 in dollar terms is 20% above the previous year's performance. Quantitatively an export figure of US $ 41 billion is being targeted.

Export Promotion Measures are continuously being taken by Government through changes in policies and procedures for providing an exporter friendly environment, involvement of